

Deer Creek Plans Draw Opposition

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VERNAL, Utah (UPI) — A plan by the Board of Parks and Recreation that would limit camping stays on Deer Creek Reservoir to 14 days and provide facilities for more use during the day has both its supporters and detractors.

Board member Red Burnett said members will make a decision at their next meeting on whether to adopt the new management plan for the Deer Creek Reservoir.

Larry Bowden, representing board camp owners, said the camp is made up primarily of retired people who would suffer if the camps are eliminated.

The plan calls for limiting stays for 14 days because the state's contract with the federal government does not allow use the shoreline of exclusive private use. One camp concessionaire rather than several also is proposed.

But Fred Lillgren of the Bureau of Reclamation supported the plan. He said his agency is finding deteriorating water quality along the lake, especially in high-use areas.

Lillgren said the new plan provides for soil erosion prevention and land and water cleaning.

Wasatch County Commissioner Pete Coleman said the commission agrees with state planner

that use patterns on the reservoir have changed. It should no longer be developed chiefly to serve fishermen, campers and motorboaters, he said.

But Coleman said the commission is concerned the management plans are too sketchy and need modification.

Coleman recommended a program that phases in state improvements at the same time it phases out boat camps and makes provision for improved sanitary facilities at Rainbow Bay and Sailboard Beach.

Vard Ferri, supervisor of the Deer Creek Reservoir Recreation area, said use of the reservoir has changed in the last few years, with sailing becoming more popular.

He said from a recreation point of view, the best use of the reservoir would be a well-developed, day-use facility.

"There is a need for day use along the Wasatch Front and we could provide an excellent facility on the best sailing lake in the state," Ferrin said.

Gilbert Olsen, chairman of the Wasatch County Board of Health, said if people stay at camps over the 14-day limit, a sewer system, garbage disposal, fish cleaning sites and orderly distribution of people would be required to comply with health rules.

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